

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has said that “discrimination against people with disabilities isn’t only an injustice; it is a strain on economic development, a limit to democracy, a burden on families and a cause of social erosion”.

Americans with Disabilities Act

21st Anniversary

July 26th marks the **21st anniversary** of the signing of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** in 1990. This legislation represents the most comprehensive civil rights legislation since the enactment of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. It sets a clear and concise national mandate to address and eliminate the major forms of discrimination faced daily by more than 43 million Americans with disabilities as well as to promote their full inclusion into the society.

Throughout history, persons with disabilities have suffered from segregation and isolation. They were commonly met with fear and pity or even with cruelty and ridicule. The prejudice and the discrimination imposed on people with disabilities prevented them from enjoying all the freedoms that their fellow citizens have enjoyed and participating fully in society.

The ADA was an important step in helping to ensure more equal opportunities for all in the United States. The ADA mandated equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. For more information about ADA, please, see the publications and links indicated below.

On this occasion, the Embassy of the United States of America in Baghdad announces its four month long campaign under the title ***“Commemorate, Educate & Advocate for the Rights of People with Disabilities.”*** The Campaign's goal is to enhance the recognition and protection of the rights of people with disabilities and to share with the Iraqi Public America’s experience and ongoing struggles in this field.

As such the Embassy will hold a series of programs and activities within the coming four months. The first of which will be opening a forum on Facebook to share with the Iraqis the campaign mission. **Join us and become part of a nation-wide effort to promote the rights of people with disabilities**

Related Links

<http://www.facebook.com/embassybaghdad>

<http://www.disability.gov>

<http://www.ada.gov/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/disabilities>

Publications

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended: over view and text of the ADA (<http://access-board.gov/about/laws/ADA.htm>)